

METHOD, SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR EVALUATION
OF THE PROXIMITY OF BRANDS AND VEHICLES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The invention of this application concerns technology for the quantitative evaluation of the affinity of a vehicle with a specific brand, of the affinity of a brand with a specific vehicle, of the proximity of a specific brand to another brand, and of the proximity of a specific vehicle to another vehicle, taking as basic data the utilization of brands and vehicles by consumers and the affirmation or negation of the sense-of-values statements by consumers.

10 Hereupon, in the Specification of this application, there are cases in which "affinity" is evaluated as high when there is high "proximity", and so in the Specification of this application, there are cases in which "proximity" also means "affinity".

15 Also, because the content of this invention is a technological concept closely related to commercial activities, an explanation cannot avoid the necessity of citing specific brands and vehicles. Hence in this Specification, symbols such as \bigcirc , \triangle , A, B, C are frequently used. However, these symbols do not have a specific meaning, nor do symbols used in one explanation necessarily have the same meaning as the same symbols used in the explanation in another place.

25 In this Specification, "brand" is an appellation for a

specific commodity or service, or for a group of commodities or services, which enable discrimination from other commodities or services; it is a concept which includes entities publicly and generally recognized as brands and trademarks, besides those registered as trademarks according to trademark law, and specifically includes whiskey trademarks, brand names (such as "ABC 15 years"), and automobile names.

For example, if all the automobiles manufactured by an automobile manufacturer (company ○○○) are of the brand "○○○", a specific model is of the brand "△△△", and a deluxe version is called "△△△-DX", each of these can be adopted for evaluation as brands. In this case, the evaluator can freely determine adoption for evaluation.

Similarly, if all the cosmetics manufactured by a cosmetics producers (company ○○) are of the brand "○○", and a specific cosmetic (for example, lipstick) is of the brand "△△", then each of these can also be adopted for evaluation as brands.

Also, in this Specification, "vehicle" signifies an entity which supplies space to display advertisements to consumers and other targeted persons.

Specifically, vehicles include television programs, dayparts for television, radio programs, dayparts for radio, magazines, newspapers, public transportation routes, public transportation embarkation/disembarkation points, transfer facilities (stations, airports, boat landings), Internet

sites (web pages and similar), and other entities. That is, vehicles are such things as ○○ newspaper, △△ newspaper, and area along ○○ transportation route, as well as individual entities such as ○○ station and △△ station.

5 Hence the term "vehicle" used in this Specification does not refer solely to magazines, newspapers and other advertising media, as is frequently the case when the word is used in English.

10 Moreover, the above-described "space" includes physical space, temporal space, and conceptual or virtual space. In terms of the above examples, public transportation routes, the embarkation/disembarkation points of public transportation, and relay facilities are examples of entities which provide physical space; the broadcasting dayparts of
15 television are examples of entities which provide temporal space; and Internet sites are examples of entities providing conceptual or virtual space.

 Here "commodities" is a concept which includes intangible as well as tangible items.

20 Furthermore, a brand can simultaneously be a vehicle as well. For example, a magazine can be a vehicle for the purpose of promoting some kind of commodities, and at the same time can itself be a brand as referenced in this invention.

25 2. Description of the Related Art

 Various conventional methods to evaluate the mutual proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle are known, which take

both extremes: methods for obtaining a subjective understanding through the sensibilities of the evaluating persons, and methods for objective evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle based on factor
5 categories obtained as the result of multivariate analysis of a brand and/or a vehicle.

The latter are methods in which the proximity of each brand or vehicle to a certain factor is evaluated as the distance along the factor axis; of course because such
10 methods depend little on the subjective views of the evaluator, they are in principle superior.

However, the result of such an evaluation is not infrequently at variance with the intuitive proximity or affinity, so that under present conditions the result must be
15 modified by the subjective judgment of humans.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The problem to be solved by the invention of this application is to provide a method for evaluation of the proximity of each brand or vehicle to a certain factor which
20 is of higher reliability, enabling easier execution of evaluation, and which is easier to understand.

That is, the present invention is as follows.

1. A method of evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle, based on factors obtained as a result of
25 factor analysis of a brand group and/or a vehicle group, and comprising

evaluation of the mutual proximity between brands, or

between vehicles, or between a brand and a vehicle, through the magnitude of the angle θ formed by the vectors thereof, in a coordinate system in which a plurality of factors are respectively taken to be axes with the origin taken to be the factor score = 0, and the factor score of each brand and/or each vehicle for each factor is expressed as a distance from the origin along the factor axis.

2. The method of evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle according to 1. above, comprising the evaluation of mutual proximity by means of the magnitude of the angle θ made by the above-described vectors and their mutual distance.

3. A method of evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle, based on factors obtained as a result of factor analysis of a brand group and/or a vehicle group, wherein

in a coordinate system in which a plurality of factors are respectively taken to be axes with the origin taken to be the factor score = 0, and the factor score of each brand and/or vehicle for each factor is expressed as a distance from the origin along the factor axis, the mutual proximity of a specific brand or vehicle l_i and a specific brand or vehicle m_j is evaluated by means of equation (1) below.

$$D_{ij} = [\alpha \{ \sum_{k=1}^n (l_{ik} - m_{jk})^2 \} + \beta (1 - \cos \theta_{ij})^2]^{1/2} \quad (1)$$

where:

i, j : Numbers assigned to brands or vehicles

D_{ij} : Value distance between brand or vehicle l_i , and

brand or vehicle m_j

l_{ik} : Factor score on the k -factor axis of brand or vehicle l_i

5 m_{jk} : Factor score on the k -factor axis of brand or vehicle m_j

n : Number of factor axes used in evaluation

θ_{ij} : Angle made by the vectors of the brand or vehicle l_i , and the brand or vehicle m_j

10 α, β : Weighting factors, where $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ and $0 < \beta \leq 1$

4. The proximity evaluation method according to 3. above, wherein $2\alpha \leq \beta$.

5. The proximity evaluation method of 3. or 4. above, wherein $\alpha = 0.05$ to 0.4 , and $\beta = 0.95$ to 0.6 .

15 6. A method of evaluation of the proximity of a vehicle to a brand, which determines the affinity of each of the vehicles in a selected vehicle group with a specific brand by means of the angle θ of the above 1. or of the angle θ and distance of the above 2. or of the value distance D_{ij} of
20 any of the above 3. through 5. formed by each of the vehicles of the selected vehicle group and the specific brand.

7. A method of evaluation of the proximity of a brand to a vehicle, which determines the affinity of each of the brands in a selected brand group with a specific vehicle by
25 means of the angle θ of the above 1. or of the angle θ and distance of the above 2. or of the value distance D_{ij} of any of the above 3. through 5. formed by each of the brands of

the selected brand group and the specific vehicle.

8. A method of evaluation of the proximity of a brand to a brand, which determines the proximity of each of the brands in a selected brand group with a specific brand by means of the angle θ of the above 1. or of the angle θ and distance of the above 2. or of the value distance D_{ij} of any of the above 3. through 5. formed by each of the brands of the selected brand group and the specific brand.

9. A method of evaluation of the proximity of a vehicle to a vehicle, which determines the proximity of each of the vehicles in a selected vehicle group with a specific vehicle by means of the angle θ of the above 1. or of the angle θ and distance of the above 2. or of the value distance D_{ij} of any of the above 3. through 5. formed by each of the vehicles of the selected vehicle group and the specific vehicle.

10. The method of proximity evaluation of any of 1. through 8. above, wherein the brand or brand group is at least one selected from the group consisting of an automobile brand or brand group, a cosmetic brand or brand group, or an alcoholic beverage brand or brand group.

11. The method of proximity evaluation of any of 1. through 7. or 9. above, wherein the vehicle or vehicle group is at least one selected from the group consisting of a magazine or magazine group, or a newspaper or newspaper group.

12. A method of evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle, based on factors obtained as a result of

factor analysis of a brand group and/or a vehicle group, and comprising

evaluation of the proximity between brands or between vehicles through the magnitude of the angle formed by factor scores and a factor axis, in a coordinate system in which a plurality of factors are respectively taken to be axes with the origin taken to be the factor score = 0, and the factor score of each brand and/or each vehicle for each factor is expressed as a distance from the origin along the factor axis.

13. The method of evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle according to 12. above, comprising the evaluation of proximity by means of the magnitude of the angle made by factor scores and a factor axis, and the distance between the factor score and the origin.

14. A system for evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle, based on factors obtained as a result of factor analysis of a brand group and/or a brand group, and having

means for determining factor scores of each brand and/or vehicle for each factor of a plurality of factors, and,

in a coordinate system in which the plural factors are taken to be axes with the origin taken to be the factor score = 0, and the factor score of each brand and/or vehicle for each factor is expressed as a distance from the origin along the factor axis, means for generation of the angles of vectors formed between coordinate points determined by the factor scores of each brand and/or each vehicle.

15. A system for evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle, based on factors obtained as a result of factor analysis of a brand group and/or a brand group, and having

5 means for determining factor scores of each brand and/or vehicle for each factor of a plurality of factors, and,

in a coordinate system in which the plural factors are taken to be axes with the origin taken to be the factor score = 0, and the factor score of each brand and/or vehicle for
10 each factor is expressed as a distance from the origin along the factor axis, means for generation of the angles formed between coordinate points determined by the factor scores of each brand and/or each vehicle, and factor axes.

16. The system for proximity evaluation according to 14.
15 or 15. above, having means for generation of distances between coordinate points and/or distances between coordinate points and the origin.

17. A system for evaluation of the proximity of a brand and/or a vehicle, based on factors obtained as a result of
20 factor analysis of a brand group and/or a brand group, and having

means for determining factor scores of each brand and/or vehicle for each factor of a plurality of factors, and,

in a coordinate system in which the plural factors are
25 taken to be axes with the origin taken to be the factor score = 0, and the factor score of each brand and/or vehicle for each factor is expressed as a distance from the origin along

the factor axis, means for generation of the mutual proximity between a specific brand or vehicle l_i and a specific brand or vehicles m_j , using equation (1) below.

$$D_{ij} = [\alpha \{ \sum_{k=1}^n (l_{ik} - m_{jk})^2 \} + \beta (1 - \cos \theta_{ij})^2]^{1/2} \quad (1)$$

5 where:

i, j : Numbers assigned to brands or vehicles

D_{ij} : Value distance between brand or vehicle l_i , and brand or vehicle m_j

10 l_{ik} : Factor score on the k-factor axis of brand or vehicle l_i

m_{jk} : Factor score on the k-factor axis of brand or vehicle m_j

n : Number of factor axes used in evaluation

15 θ_{ij} : Angle made by the vectors of the brand or vehicle l_i , and the brand or vehicle m_j

α, β : Weighting factors, where $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ and $0 < \beta \leq 1$

18. A computer program product for executing the method according to any one of the above 1. through 9., 12. or 13.

The invention of this application is a method for
20 quantitative evaluation of the affinity of a vehicle with a specific brand, of the affinity of a brand with a specific vehicle, of the proximity of a specific brand to another brand, and of the proximity of a specific vehicle to another vehicle, taking as basic data the utilization of brands and
25 vehicles by consumers and the affirmation or negation of the sense-of-values statements by consumers.

That is, in this method the brands and vehicles of this

invention are selected, and taking as basic data the utilization of these by consumers and the affirmative or negative response by consumers to the sense-of-values statements, this data is used to determine factors, to
5 determine factor scores as the distance from the origin along each factor axis for each brand and vehicle, and, in a coordinate system which takes each factor as an axis, to evaluate the mutual proximity and affinity by means of the angles made by each of the brands and/or vehicles and the
10 distances.

Here factor analysis is one method of multivariate analysis, and the various known methods can be used. For example, the varimax method, the quartimax method, and the bi-quartimax method, can be used.

15 In the invention of this application, a "factor" is a set of the same attributes having mutual resemblance of sense-of-values statements; if conditions are stipulated, the number of factors can be determined automatically using multivariate analysis. Factors generated in this way are a
20 group of sense-of-values statements.

"Sense-of-values statements" are, in factor analysis, normally called variables, and are items or statements indicating various sense of values held by people; specific examples by genre are shown in Table 1. Items or statements
25 other than those in this table can be freely specified.

In the above evaluations of proximity and affinity, it was discovered that the introduction of the concept of angles

or vector angles is extremely useful.

This may be explained in greater detail as follows.

Fig. 1 is a model diagram showing a comparison of the conventional method and the evaluation method of this

5 invention introducing the concept of angles.

In Fig. 1, the horizontal axis is the axis of factor 1, and the vertical axis represents the axis of factor 2; vehicle x_1 , vehicle x_2 , and brand a_1 are plotted in a plane-orthogonal coordinate system by distances from the origin along the factor 1 axis (x_{11} , x_{21} , a_{11}) and by distances from the origin along the factor 2 axis (x_{12} , x_{22} , a_{12}).

The vehicle x_1 , vehicle x_2 , and brand a_1 correspond to the l_i and m_j explained above, with $i=1$ and $j=1,2$. In order to clarify the distinction between vehicles and brands, instead of l or m , x and a are used.

Conventionally, in this drawing, proximity is evaluated through distances obtained using terms such as $|x_{11}-a_{11}|$, $|x_{21}-a_{11}|$, $|x_{12}-a_{12}|$, $|x_{22}-a_{12}|$, $[(x_{11}-a_{11})^2+(x_{12}-a_{12})^2]^{1/2}$, and $[(x_{21}-a_{11})^2+(x_{22}-a_{12})^2]^{1/2}$.

20 In the invention of this application, the concept of angles (vector angles) represented by θ_1 and θ_2 in Fig. 1 is introduced; in this method, proximity is evaluated using the magnitude of these angles, or using relations between angles and distances.

25 In the example of Fig. 1, in terms of distances, the above two vehicles should have equivalent proximity to the brand a_1 , but in terms of the factor 1 axis, vehicle x_2 has

closer proximity with respect to factor 1 than does vehicle x_1 (that is, $|a_{11}-x_{21}|$ is shorter than $|a_{11}-x_{11}|$), and in terms of the factor 2 axis, vehicle x_1 has closer proximity than does vehicle x_2 with respect to factor 2 (that is, $|a_{12}-x_{12}|$ is shorter than $|a_{12}-x_{22}|$).

Thus in the conventional method, it is sometimes not possible to perform objective evaluation. Yet, there are occasions in such circumstances that a clear difference between the two was recognized when concretely evaluating the absorption of a brand message by means of promotional campaigns for both vehicles.

Compared with this, when the angles of this invention are introduced, in the example of Fig. 1 the angle made with the brand a_1 is smaller for the vehicle x_1 than for the vehicle x_2 , showing closer proximity. That is, the proximity between the vehicle x_1 and the brand a_1 is closer than the proximity between the vehicle x_2 and the brand a_1 , so that the vehicle x_1 has closer proximity to the brand a_1 than does the vehicle x_2 .

It was discovered that this is in good agreement with concrete evaluations like that above.

Further, through combined use of this concept of angles and the concept of distances, accuracy is improved.

As methods for this combination, appropriate application of common mathematical processings is also possible; in particular, however, it was discovered that eq. (1) above is superior.

That is, the value-distances of this invention are distances which include the concept of angles. In this case, l_{ik} and m_{jk} may both concern either brands or vehicles.

The explanation of the above Fig. 1 is for two coordinate axes; but as indicated by eq. (1), this invention enables evaluations employing two or more factor axes.

A schematic representation of this invention appears as the flowchart of Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2, step 1 represents the data collection process.

In data collection, a survey was made to a group of persons targeted for the survey who have been selected by a specific method, to show a list of brands, vehicles and sense-of-values statements, and asked about utilization of each brand, utilization of each vehicle, and for an affirmation or negation of the sense-of-values statements.

Here it is possible to either consider or exclude from consideration the age, sex, occupation, income, marital status, geographic region, and other demographic characteristics of the group of targeted persons, and trial-and-error can also be used for the selection.

In place of questions asking whether each brand is known, questions may for example ask, with respect to beverage brands, whether the person "drank in last several weeks or months" or "purchased in last several weeks or months" the beverage. That is, the question should address utilization by the targeted person.

Similarly, in place of questions asking whether each

vehicle is being utilized, questions may, in the case of a magazine, ask whether the person "read the magazine in last several weeks or months".

Next, in step 2, a data matrix is created.

5 In the data matrix table, it is preferable that vehicles and brands be arranged on the left side of the table, and that sense-of-values statements be arranged as the matrix headings.

10 Next, in step 3 factor analysis is executed, factors are selected, factor scores are determined, and each brand and vehicle is plotted in a coordinate space in which factors are taken to be coordinate axes and factor score = 0 is taken as the origin.

15 The number of factors can be selected by the person executing the evaluation (the evaluator). The evaluator also determines the labels of factors. It is normal to assign a label thought to be appropriate to each factor.

20 Next, in step 4, the angles formed by each brand and vehicle in the coordinate space, and their value distances, are calculated.

 In step 5, it is possible, from the angles formed by each brand and vehicle and from value distances, to objectively grasp how to select a vehicle for a brand in question, how to select a brand as an object suitable for commercial advertising in a vehicle, the characteristics of
25 competing brands and competing vehicles, etc.

 It is noted that most of the above operations can be

performed by computer. By handling the above procedures as a computer program, factor analysis can be performed at an arbitrary area according to the desires of customers, advertising sponsors and others, based on data obtained at
5 arbitrary areas.

Fig. 8 is a block diagram used to explain the above computer operations. Fig. 8 shows an example of this invention, but the scope of this invention is not limited by this block diagram.

10 In Fig. 8, the central processing unit 11 receives instructions from a controlling program in main memory 12, reads data input from an input device 15 via a common bus 14, creates a data matrix as shown in step 2 of Fig. 2, and stores the result in a file device 13. An example of the
15 output appears in Table 2.

The control program in main memory 12 can be read from computer-readable recording media recording a program which executes one of the methods described in the above 1. through 9., into the main memory 12, either in advance or as
20 convenient.

The central processing device 11 uses the data matrix to execute arithmetic processing for factor analysis, as in step 2 of Fig. 2, and stores the factors, factor scores and other information obtained in the file device 13.

25 Next, the central processing device 11 uses these factors, factor scores and other information to obtain the angles formed, value distances and other information for each

brand and vehicle in the coordinate space shown in Fig. 1, as indicated in step 4 of Fig. 2, and stores the results in the file device 13.

The various files above stored in the file device by the above means can be output as convenient via a printer, recording media drive, display or other output device 16.

A graph plotting each brand and vehicle in the coordinate space can also be output from the factors and factor scores, as indicated in the explanation of step 3 in Fig. 2. Fig. 7 is an example of such output.

Output such as that shown in Table 6 can also be obtained. Using these, an objective grasp of appropriate brands and vehicles as in step 5 of Fig. 2 becomes possible.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a model diagram showing a comparison of a conventional method and the evaluation method of this invention, introducing the concept of angles;

Fig. 2 is a flowchart which schematically illustrates this invention;

Fig. 3 is a graph showing the relation between cosines and main copy awareness rates;

Fig. 4 is a graph showing the relation between Euclidean distances and main copy awareness rates;

Fig. 5 is a graph showing the relation between value distances and main copy awareness rates;

Fig. 6 is another graph showing the relation between value distances and main copy awareness rates;

Fig. 7 is a positioning map for brands and vehicles; and,
Fig. 8 is a block diagram which explains this invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Below, one example of an embodiment aspect of this
invention is explained, as a more concrete explanation of the
above flowchart, regarding the results of application of this
invention to a case in which magazines Mg1 through Mg10 are
selected as the vehicle group, Br1 through Br5 are selected
as the brand group, and the four items at the top of Table 2
(items relating to overseas study and other matters) are
selected as the sense-of-values statements.

Table 2 shows a data matrix; in factor analysis, terms
(sense-of-values statements) are usually called variables,
and vehicles and brands are usually called samples.

It is noted that the following example is no more than
one mode of this invention; the scope of this invention is
not thereby limited.

The figures enclosed by the side of the table in Table 2
(the column formed by vehicles and brands) and by the table
headings (the row formed by sense-of-values statements) are
the fractions (in percent), among those persons who have read
each vehicle or utilized each brand, who replied in the
affirmative with respect to each of the sense-of-values
statements. For example, the figure "1.9" in the uppermost
row on the left end signifies that 1.9% of the persons who
have read Mg1 have had overseas study experience.

Table 3 shows the results of factor analysis for sense-

of-values statements. The varimax method was used for the factor analysis.

The number of factors which can be obtained in factor analysis using factor analysis methods can be selected arbitrarily, with the total number of variables as the upper limit. Here two were selected, in the order of the largest eigenvalues.

Here an eigenvalue is a value which is the higher, the greater is the explanatory power of a factor with respect to variables which are sense-of-values statements. The contributing ratio is the eigenvalue divided by the number of variables (in this case, four), and the cumulative contributing ratio is the cumulative sum of contributing ratios, in order of magnitude. Concretely, calculations can be performed by the method of Tahenryou Kaiseki no Jissen (jou) (issued December 10, 1993, by Gendai Suugakusha K.K.), pp. 166 to 184.

Table 4 shows factor loadings, which are weightings for each factor with respect to each of the sense-of-values statements.

Factor loadings are calculated by the principal factors method, the centroid method, the maximum likelihood method, and other methods.

The results of Table 4 were obtained using the principal factors method.

Appellations for each of the factors may be determined freely by the evaluator. That is, "degree of status" and

"degree of convenience" were selected by the evaluator as appropriate to the respective factors.

Table 5 shows the factor scores for each vehicle and brand.

5 Factor scores were calculated by the method of minimizing the residual sums of squares.

Based on factor scores obtained in this way, Fig. 7 plots vehicles and brands in the coordinate space taking each factor as a reference axis. Because factor scores may have
10 positive or negative values, it is possible to choose the origin at factor score = 0, as in this example.

Table 6 shows Euclidean distances and angles (shown as cosines) between Br1 and each Mg as well as value distances, based on Fig. 7. Value distances were calculated using the
15 above eq. (1) ($\alpha=1$, $\beta=1$).

Next, the results of analyses to verify the validity of this invention are presented. In this analysis, the focus is placed on correlations between the Euclidean distances, cosines, value distances and main copy awareness rates for
20 lipstick brands Br1', Br2', Br3', and magazines Mg1' through Mg8' in which advertising for these brands appears.

Here "main copy awareness rates" signifies the sum of the fractions, out of all persons responding to a survey questionnaire asking whether the individual remembers main
25 copies for each brand, who recognized or vaguely recognized the main copy. Figs. 3 through 6 show graphs of the relations between Euclidean distances, cosines, value distances, and

main copy awareness rates for each of the lipstick brands Br1', Br2', Br3', and for the magazines in which advertising for these brands appears. In the figures, there are 13 plotted points; this is because, in actuality, advertisements for Br1' appeared in eight magazines, Mg1' through Mg8'; advertisements for Br2' appeared in three magazines, Mg1', Mg6', Mg7'; advertisements for Br3' appeared in two magazines, Mg4', Mg6', and, therefore they appeared in a total of thirteen magazines.

10 In each of the figures, R^2 is a decision coefficient in correlation equations. Higher values of this decision coefficient signify higher correlation between items on the vertical axis and items on the horizontal axis.

15 From comparisons of Fig. 3 with Figs. 4 and 5, it is seen that evaluations using cosines (that is, evaluations using angles), and evaluations using eq. (1), are superior to evaluations using Euclidean distances.

20 In this evaluation, the decision coefficient of Fig. 5 is smaller than the decision coefficient of Fig. 3. However, in Fig. 6, which replaces the α and β values of Fig. 5 with $\alpha=0.05$ and $\beta=0.95$, the decision coefficient is prominently increased. That is, Fig. 6 indicates that selection of appropriate values for α and β is important for this invention.

25 With respect to α and β , it has been established that, preferably, $2\alpha \leq \beta$. Outside this range, depending on the types of brands and vehicles, there are cases in which effect of an

angle is not clearly shown. It was also established that the range $\alpha=0.05$ to 0.4 and $\beta=0.95$ to 0.6 is also preferable. Still more preferable is a range in which both these conditions are satisfied simultaneously.

5 It has been shown that this invention exhibits superior results for brands of automobiles, cosmetics and alcoholic beverages and for magazine and newspaper vehicles in particular.

10 By using this invention, it is possible to evaluate the proximity between individual brands, the proximity between individual vehicles, the proximity of individual vehicles to individual brands, and the proximity of individual brands to individual vehicles; in addition, the proximity of individual brands and individual vehicles to specific coordinate
15 positions in a coordinate space constructed from the above factors can be evaluated objectively, rapidly, and with high reliability.

20 Evaluations of the proximity between brands is useful when evaluating the proximity rank of competing brands to consumer needs, or in a similar case; evaluations of the proximity between vehicles is useful when evaluating the rank of appeal to consumers of competing vehicles, or in a similar case; evaluations of the proximity of a vehicle to individual brands is useful when selecting vehicles compatible with the
25 brands, or in a similar case; and evaluations of the proximity of a brand to individual vehicles is useful when expanding advertising sponsors for the vehicle, or in a

similar case. Evaluation of the proximity of individual brands and individual vehicles with respect to specific coordinate positions in a coordinate space constructed from the above factors is useful when setting targets for the development of new brands and vehicles, or in a similar case.

Table 1. Examples of sense-of-values statements

No.	Genre	Statement
1	Health	Visits the hospital (other than dental) periodically.
2	Health	Has strong interest in health.
3	Health	Pays attention to health of teeth and gums.
4	Health	Tries not to use medicine.
5	Health	Takes care not to gain weight.
6	Health	Always eats breakfast.
7	Health	Is particular about the taste of food.
8	Health	Tries to limit fat intake.
9	Health	Is careful to avoid excessive sugar intake.
10	Health	Is careful to avoid excessive salt intake.
11	Eating	Often eats at famous restaurants.
12	Eating	Often eats fast food.
13	Eating	Often eats "instant" products.
14	Eating	Watches intake of additives.
15	Eating	Knows many good restaurants.
16	Eating	Visits a discount store for liquor products.
17	Eating	Sometimes eats carry-out lunches.
18	Sports	Wants to assemble high-quality sports equipment.
19	Sports	Likes sports and exercise.
20	Sports	Wants to get serious about sports.
21	Sports	Is interested in new sports.
22	Fashion	Possesses top-brand jewelry or similar.
23	Fashion	Pays attention to bad breath, other social manners.
24	Fashion	Wants to try looking different from the crowd.
25	Fashion	Has confidence in own fashion sensibilities.
26	Fashion	Owens top-brand handbag.
26	Fashion	Tends to be concerned with others' appearances.
28	Fashion	Uses specialty stores when buying clothing.
29	Fashion	Tends to spend money on clothes.
30	Fashion	Owens top-brand shoes.
31	Fashion	Spends time on appearance of own face.
32	Fashion	Tends to be concerned with clothing.
33	Fashion	Spends time on appearance of hair.

34	Overseas	Has experience studying overseas.
35	Overseas	Has read foreign newspaper or similar for 1 year.
36	Overseas	Has two weeks or more experience overseas.
37	Overseas	Has acquaintances who make frequent trips broad.
38	Overseas	Wants to study English.
39	Overseas	Has family or friends living overseas.
40	Overseas	Can speak English at daily conversational level.
41	Overseas	Has foreign friends.
42	Overseas	Has spoken in a foreign language with foreigners for 1 year.
43	Overseas	Wants to study a foreign language other than English.
44	Overseas	Is interested in magazine articles on overseas matters.
45	Overseas	Has traveled abroad.
46	Overseas	Is interested in overseas reports of newspapers.
47	Money	Uses money to enjoy living today.
48	Money	Investigates services of financial institutions.
49	Money	Tends to save money for the future.
50	Money	Worries about interest when borrowing money.
51	Money	Worries about interest when depositing, investing money.
52	Money	Always thinks about social security.
53	Environment	Participates in a volunteer group or other groups.
54	Environment	Has strong interest in global environment.
55	Environment	Has strong interest in local environmental issues.
56	Environment	Makes efforts to recycle and protect environment.
57	Environment	Wants to buy environment-friendly products.
58	Environment	Participates in a hobby, sports group or other groups.
59	Cooking	Often makes bread, candy oneself.
60	Cooking	Makes food for holidays and festivals (Hinamatsuri, Nanakusa, etc.).
61	Cooking	Prepares meals with nutritional balance in mind.
62	Cooking	Microwave oven is helpful in making meals.
63	Cooking	Tries to expand own cooking repertoire.
64	Cooking	Uses foodstuffs without additives if possible.
65	Cooking	Uses "instant" and frozen foods without worrying.
66	Cooking	Prepares soup stock from kelp and shaved bonito.
67	Cooking	Spends time on cooking.
68	Cooking	Uses good-quality foods for cooking even if expensive.

69	Advertising, media, information	Searches for TV programs to watch.
70	Advertising, media, information	Watches only TV programs she/he really wants to watch.
71	Advertising, media, information	Watches programs to the end without changing channels.
72	Advertising, media, information	Thinks today's TV is enjoyable.
73	Advertising, media, information	Often does something else while watching TV.
74	Advertising, media, information	Often watches TV alone.
75	Advertising, media, information	Often programs a VCR to record programs.
76	Advertising, media, information	Usually watches BS satellite broadcast TV.
77	Advertising, media, information	Usually watches CS satellite broadcast TV.
78	Advertising, media, information	Usually watches cable TV.
79	Advertising, media, information	Often does something else while listening to the radio.
80	Advertising, media, information	Often listens to the radio while in the car.
81	Advertising, media, information	Often listens to the radio at the workplace.
82	Advertising, media, information	Listens to the radio while commuting or on the move.
83	Advertising, media, information	Tends to listen to specific radio programs.
84	Advertising, media, information	Tries to read a number of different newspapers.

85	Advertising, media, information	Always reads the morning edition in the morning of that day.
86	Advertising, media, information	Often brings up newspaper reportage in conversations.
87	Advertising, media, information	Often makes use of newspaper articles in everyday life.
88	Advertising, media, information	Tries to buy newly established magazines when possible.
89	Advertising, media, information	Often makes use of magazine articles in everyday life.
90	Advertising, media, information	Often buys magazines the day they appear on newsstands.
91	Advertising, media, information	Often buys magazines at convenience stores.
92	Advertising, media, information	Often looks over direct-mail offerings.
93	Advertising, media, information	Has strong interest in multimedia.
94	Advertising, media, information	Often collects information on the Internet.
95	Advertising, media, information	Is interested in ads to find out what's popular and trendy.
96	Advertising, media, information	Makes use of ads when shopping.
97	Advertising, media, information	Looks closely at ads for interesting products.
98	Advertising, media, information	Often looks at ads within trains.
99	Advertising, media, information	Often looks at ads and posters in stations.
100	Advertising, media, information	Looks at billboards, neon signs in the town.

101	Advertising, media, information	Requests literature on seeing ads.
-----	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Table 2. Data matrix

No.	Magazine /brand	Past experience in overseas study	Often eats fast food	Intereste d in new sports	Tends to spend money on clothes
1	Mg1	1.9	27.1	23.0	31.6
2	Mg2	2.4	30.8	22.5	31.2
3	Mg3	2.7	32.5	27.1	34.2
4	Mg4	6.6	50.8	41.8	47.1
5	Mg5	2.2	23.0	28.4	34.6
6	Mg6	11.3	34.3	37.3	53.7
7	Mg7	10.8	36.1	36.3	52.0
8	Mg8	7.5	48.1	42.0	54.3
9	Mg9	1.4	25.8	22.1	29.7
10	Mg10	8.9	46.9	45.5	57.7
1	Br1	5.4	18.9	23.9	41.3
2	Br2	8.6	48.8	35.5	49.8
3	Br3	5.0	18.8	23.5	30.7
4	Br4	4.2	35.6	24.2	32.5
5	Br5	6.4	31.0	21.2	32.6

Table 3. Factor analysis results (eigenvalues, contributing ratios, cumulative contributing ratios)

Factor No.	Eigenvalue	Contributing ratio	Cumulative contributing ratio
Factor No. 1	1.789	44.72 %	44.72 %
Factor No. 2	1.748	43.71 %	88.43 %

Table 4. Factor analysis results (factor loading)

5

Degree of status

Degree of convenience

↓		↓	
Sense-of-Values statement	Factor No. 1	Sense-of-Values statement	Factor No. 2
Past experience in overseas study	0.8731	Often eats fast food	0.8404
Tends to spend money on clothes	0.7804	Interested in new sports	0.7768
Interested in new sports	0.5724	Tends to spend money on clothes	0.5839
Often eats fast food	0.3000	Past experience in overseas study	0.3124

Table 5. Factor analysis results (factor scores)

Magazine/brand	Factor No. 1	Factor No. 2
Mg1	-0.928	-0.450
Mg2	-0.953	-0.351
Mg3	-0.928	0.117
Mg4	-0.379	1.850
Mg5	-0.788	-0.181
Mg6	1.775	-0.226
Mg7	1.535	-0.134
Mg8	0.526	1.344
Mg9	-1.107	-0.493
Mg10	0.922	1.418
Br1	0.775	-1.498
Br2	0.642	0.710
Br3	-0.280	-1.055
Br4	-0.750	-0.130
Br5	-0.062	-0.920

Table 6. Euclidean distance, cosine, value distance between Br1 and magazine vehicles

5 Euclidean distance between brand 1 and magazines

No.	Magazine	Euclidean distance
1	Mg7	1.562
2	Mg6	1.618
3	Mg1	1.999
4	Mg5	2.044
5	Mg2	2.074
6	Mg9	2.133
7	Mg3	2.347
8	Mg8	2.853
9	Mg10	2.920
10	Mg4	3.541

Cosine between brand 1 and magazines

No.	Magazine	Cosine
1	Mg6	0.568
2	Mg7	0.535
3	Mg1	-0.025
4	Mg9	-0.058
5	Mg2	-0.124
6	Mg5	-0.249
7	Mg10	-0.494
8	Mg3	-0.567
9	Mg8	-0.660
10	Mg4	-0.962

Value distance between brand 1 and magazines

No.	Magazine	Value distance
1	Mg7	1.630
2	Mg6	1.675
3	Mg1	2.247
4	Mg2	2.359
5	Mg9	2.381
6	Mg5	2.396
7	Mg3	2.822
8	Mg10	3.280
9	Mg8	3.300
10	Mg4	4.049